

§ 1.6664-3

26 CFR Ch. I (4-1-02 Edition)

underpayment is \$6,000, determined as follows:

Tax imposed under subtitle A	\$25,500
Tax shown on return	\$18,000
Tax previously assessed (or collected without assessment)	1,500
Amount of rebates made	None
Balance	\$19,500
Underpayment	\$6,000

Example 3. On Form 1040 filed for tax year 1990, taxpayer reported a tax liability of \$10,000, estimated tax payments of \$15,000, and received a refund of \$5,000. Estimated tax payments actually made with respect to tax year 1990 were only \$7,000. For purposes of determining the amount of underpayment subject to a penalty under section 6662 or section 6663, the tax shown on the return is \$2,000 (reported tax liability of \$10,000 reduced by the overstated estimated tax of \$8,000 (\$15,000-\$7,000)). The underpayment is \$8,000, determined as follows:

Tax imposed under subtitle A	\$10,000
Tax shown on return	\$2,000
Tax previously assessed (or collected without assessment)	None
Amount of rebates made	None
Balance	\$2,000
Underpayment	\$8,000

[T.D. 8381, 56 FR 67506, Dec. 31, 1991; T.D. 8381, 57 FR 6165, Feb. 20, 1992]

§ 1.6664-3 Ordering rules for determining the total amount of penalties imposed.

(a) *In general.* This section provides rules for determining the order in which adjustments to a return are taken into account for the purpose of computing the total amount of penalties imposed under sections 6662 and 6663, where—

(1) There is at least one adjustment with respect to which no penalty has been imposed and at least one with respect to which a penalty has been imposed, or

(2) There are at least two adjustments with respect to which penalties have been imposed and they have been imposed at different rates.

This section also provides rules for allocating unclaimed prepayment credits to adjustments to a return.

(b) *Order in which adjustments are taken into account.* In computing the portions of an underpayment subject to penalties imposed under sections 6662 and 6663, adjustments to a return are considered made in the following order:

(1) Those with respect to which no penalties have been imposed.

(2) Those with respect to which a penalty has been imposed at a 20 percent rate (*i.e.*, a penalty for negligence or disregard of rules or regulations, substantial understatement of income tax, or substantial valuation misstatement, under sections 6662(b)(1) through 6662(b)(3), respectively).

(3) Those with respect to which a penalty has been imposed at a 40 percent rate (*i.e.*, a penalty for a gross valuation misstatement under sections 6662(b)(3) and (h)).

(4) Those with respect to which a penalty has been imposed at a 75 percent rate (*i.e.*, a penalty for fraud under section 6663).

(c) *Manner in which unclaimed prepayment credits are allocated.* Any income tax withholding or other payment made before a return was filed, that was neither claimed on the return nor previously allowed as a credit against the tax liability for the taxable year (an “unclaimed prepayment credit”), is allocated as follows—

(1) If an unclaimed prepayment credit is allocable to a particular adjustment, such credit is applied in full in determining the amount of the underpayment resulting from such adjustment.

(2) If an unclaimed prepayment credit is not allocable to a particular adjustment, such credit is applied in accordance with the ordering rules set forth in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) *Examples.* The following examples illustrate the rules of this § 1.6664-3. These examples do not take into account the reasonable cause exception to the accuracy-related penalty under § 1.6664-4.

Example 1. A and B, husband and wife, filed a joint federal income tax return for calendar year 1989, reporting taxable income of \$15,800 and a tax liability of \$2,374. A and B had no amounts previously assessed (or collected without assessment) and no rebates

Internal Revenue Service, Treasury

§ 1.6664-4

had been made. Subsequently, the return was examined and the following adjustments and penalties were agreed to:

Adjustment #1 (No penalty imposed)	\$1,000
Adjustment #2 (Substantial understatement penalty imposed)	40,000
Adjustment #3 (Civil fraud penalty imposed)	45,000
Total adjustments	\$86,000
Taxable income shown on return	15,800
Taxable income as corrected	\$101,800
Computation of underpayment:	
Tax imposed by subtitle A	\$25,828
Tax shown on return	\$2,374
Previous assessments	None
Rebates	None
Balance	\$2,374
Underpayment	\$23,454

Computation of the portions of the underpayment on which penalties under section 6662(b)(2) and section 6663 are imposed:

Step 1 Determine the portion, if any, of the underpayment on which no accuracy-related or fraud penalty is imposed:

Taxable income shown on return ..	\$15,800
Adjustment #1	1,000
"Adjusted" taxable income	\$16,800

Tax on "adjusted" taxable income	\$2,524
Tax shown on return	2,374

Portion of underpayment on which no penalty is imposed	\$150
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Step 2 Determine the portion, if any, of the underpayment on which a penalty of 20 percent is imposed:

"Adjusted" taxable income from step 1	\$16,800
Adjustment #2	40,000
"Adjusted" taxable income	56,800
Tax on "adjusted" taxable income	\$11,880
Tax on "adjusted" taxable income from step 1	\$2,524
Portion of underpayment on which 20 percent penalty is imposed	\$9,356

Step 3 Determine the portion, if any, of the underpayment on which a penalty of 75 percent is imposed:

Total underpayment	\$23,454
Less the sum of the portions of such underpayment determined in:	
Step 1	\$150
Step 2	9,356
Total	\$9,506

Portion of underpayment on which 75 percent penalty is imposed	\$13,948
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Example 2. The facts are the same as in *Example 1* except that the taxpayers failed to claim on their return a credit of \$1,500 for income tax withheld on unreported additional income that resulted in Adjustment #2. Because the unclaimed prepayment credit is allocable to Adjustment #2, the portion of the underpayment attributable to that adjustment is \$7,856 (\$9,356—\$1,500). The portions of the underpayment attributable to Adjustments #1 and #3 remain the same.

Example 3. The facts are the same as in *Example 1* except that the taxpayers made a timely estimated tax payment of \$1,500 for 1989 which they failed to claim (and which the Service had not previously allowed). This unclaimed prepayment credit is not allocable to any particular adjustment. Therefore, the credit is allocated first to the portion of the underpayment on which no penalty is imposed (\$150). The remaining amount (\$1,350) is allocated next to the 20 percent penalty portion of the underpayment (\$9,356). Thus, the portion of the underpayment that is not penalized is zero (\$150—\$150), the portion subject to a 20 percent penalty is \$8,006 (\$9,356—\$1,350) and the portion subject to a 75 percent penalty is unchanged at \$13,948.

[T.D. 8381, 56 FR 67507, Dec. 31, 1991; T.D. 8381, 57 FR 6165, Feb. 20, 1992]

§ 1.6664-4 Reasonable cause and good faith exception to section 6662 penalties.

(a) *In general.* No penalty may be imposed under section 6662 with respect to any portion of an underpayment upon a showing by the taxpayer that there was reasonable cause for, and the taxpayer acted in good faith with respect to, such portion. Rules for determining whether the reasonable cause and good faith exception applies are set forth in paragraphs (b) through (g) of this section.